

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

SEP 18 1957

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

As you may know, arrangements have been made for a National Defense Executive Reserve Conference to be held in Washington on November 13 and 14, 1957. The purpose of this conference is to stimulate interest and participation in the Executive Reserve program as a key national defense readiness measure. There are currently some 800 members of the Executive Reserve in training with various departments and agencies, all tested executives and administrators who have signified their immediate availability to man defense agencies in any future emergency.

The Congress authorized this program in 1955 at the request of the President. As an expression of his continuing interest in the program, President Eisenhower will meet with the group to discuss the role of the Executive Reserve in the Nation's mobilization program at a dinner meeting on November 13.

It is our hope that each department and agency having a Reserve Unit will extend a cordial invitation to each of its Reservists to participate in this conference. Since the participation of each Reservist in the Reserve program is authorized by his employer, you may wish to invite the appropriate official of his organization to attend the first day's sessions.

Agency heads who have not yet established Executive Reserve Units are cordially invited to participate in the conference or to designate appropriate individuals to represent them.

Preliminary plans call for talks by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Defense Production and the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization during the course of the day. As noted, the President will speak briefly in the evening. The second day of the conference will be devoted to training sessions for Reservists conducted by each individual agency. This second day meeting is, however, entirely discretionary with each agency concerned.

I have requested the ODM Assistant Director for Manpower to coordinate plans for this conference through the Interdepartmental

- 2 -

Committee on the Executive Reserve on which you have a representative. The Business and Defense Services Administration of the Department of Commerce has undertaken to handle physical arrangements for the first day of the meeting.

I hope you will lend your support to this conference. It can be an important step forward in establishing the Executive Reserve as one of our most important mobilization readiness measures.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gordon Gray

Gordon Gray
Director